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Nanotech oversight bill reintroduced

By George Leopold, EE Times

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WASHINGTON — Legislation establishing a government advisory board to oversee a U.S. nanotechnology initiative was reintroduced this week in the House of Representatives.

The bill, sponsored by Rep. Mike Honda, D-Calif., calls for industry and university experts to serve on an advisory panel that would advise the Bush administration and Congress on research investments and goals for the [U.S. National Nanotechnology Initiative](#).

Similar legislation was [introduced in October](#) by Honda, a member of the House Science Committee.

The bill calls for the formation of an advisory panel that would develop short-, medium- and long-range objectives for nanotechnology development over the next decade and beyond. It would also establish performance metrics to determine whether goals are being achieved.

The board would submit an annual report to the president and Congress on research progress and spending on nanotechnology by government agencies.

The U.S. nanotechnology initiative aims to develop a national strategy for boosting research in the field projected by some to be worth \$1 trillion by 2015. Thirteen federal agencies participate in the initiative. The semiconductor industry and universities pushed hard in the late 1990s for federal funding to boost nanotechnology research.

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